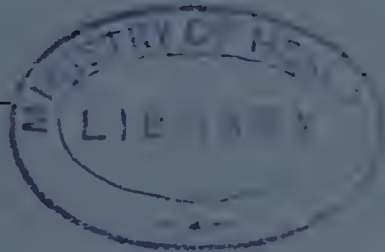


WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH,
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A.

GOWER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR
1952

BY

G. E. DONOVAN

M.D., M.Sc. D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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ANNUAL REPORT
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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Gower Rural District Council.

Chairman : Councillor ROBERT GUY, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor J. B. ROGERS.

Councillors :

WILLIAM AUSTIN, J.P.	D. I. JENKINS
F. C. BAYLISS (Jan.-May)	S. E. JOHN
E. E. DAVIES (Jan.-May)	P. P. JONES, B.A.
IVOR DAVIES	T. LLOYD
LLEWELYN DAVIES (Jan.-May)	Col. F. S. MORGAN, C.B.E., D.L., J.P.
P. J. DAVIES	Rev. O. R. OWEN.
WILLIAM A. DAVIES	B. J. RICHARDS
BRINLEY EDWARDS (Jan.-May)	G. T. R. TAYLOR, J.P. (Jan.-May)
G. E. GIBBS	J. W. THOMAS
C. M. GODBEER	H. M. TUCKER
I. A. GRONOW	W. G. TUCKER, J.P.
GLYN A. GROVE, J.P.	A. VOYZEY (Jan.-May)
SAMUEL GRIFFITHS	H. V. WATTERS (Jan.-May)
	W. R. WILLIAMS

Public Health Committee :

Chairman : Councillor J. B. ROGERS

Vice-Chairman : Councillor W. G. TUCKER, J.P.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health :

G. E. DONOVAN; M.D., M.Sc., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

G. ASHLEY JONES, M.S.I.A.

Clerk :

DENNIS HUMPHREYS

Gower Rural District Council.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
7 & 8 Uplands Crescent,
Swansea.

To the Chairman and Members of the
GOWER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have written many Annual Reports. On looking through them I find that trends which I have noted in the past have become accelerated. Truisms such as "Prevention is better than cure," and I would add, cheaper, are a constant re-occurring theme in these reports. I feel sure that a great many other Medical Officers of Health throughout the country have stressed these facts the same as I have. In the past it has been stated that public health was the Cinderella of the Health Service. I would suggest that there was a note of optimism in that pessimistic statement, as Cinderella would eventually get her "Prince Charming." This optimism was just wishful thinking, as the situation will not right itself by letting matters drift.

The Minister of Health stated on 26th May, 1953, when he opened the eighth International Hospital Congress at Church House, Westminster, "We have a splendid service to cure ill-health. What we really need is a splendid service to promote good health. It is a proud boast for a Minister of Health to be able to say he has added 10,000 more beds to the hospital resources. It will be a much prouder boast when he can say we no longer need 10,000 beds because the demand for them is not there."

Professor H. W. C. Vines estimates that the annual cost of sickness in Britain is £1,500 million. This estimate includes about £700 million as the cash cost, with the balance going in lost productivity. It is pertinent to note that despite this, the tide of illness is not ebbing. He states "The proper aim of medical care, should be to eliminate the hospital as we know it today."

The time has come for some clear thinking and policy. Preventive medicine must be restored to its proper status, if it is not, the eventual catastrophe and cost to the country will be enormous. Time will show whether we have the wisdom to put our house in order now, or to wait until it is too late.

A distressing problem is that of the aged. The proportion of the aged to the general population is rapidly increasing. Merely putting away these old people who have given much to the community in their prime into institutions is far from satisfactory both for the aged and the conscience of the people who put them away. It is highly desirable that persons should enjoy a happy, healthy and active old age. The best place for such people is in the bosom of their own family. Unfortunately, at the present time, many people who survive into old age, lead a life of loneliness and degradation. Mere medicated survival, which is the fruit of curative medicine, is no substitute for a real healthy old age. Only preventive medicine can give these people the degree of health to which they are entitled.

It is necessary to keep old people mobile, so that they are able to get about and do their normal duties. They cannot move about if they get very much trouble with their feet. It is very desirable that these people should be provided with some form of domiciliary chiropody. I understand that the County Council has no power as local health authority to provide this facility, as it is judged to be treatment, and as such, would be a matter for the hospital and specialist service. The National Assistance Board cannot assist these people to pay for such an aid, as chiropody treatment is not included in the charges made under the National Health Service Act, and which, I understand, are the only charges the Board have power to meet. Under the National Assistance Act, a local district Council has the power to give grants to recognised voluntary organisations, such as Old People's Welfare Associations, and these in their turn, could make private arrangements for chiropody facilities to the aged in their homes.

Wales was hit by an epidemic of paratyphoid during the year 1952. A great number of these cases occurred in neighbouring authorities' areas. Naturally, this caused me great anxiety, as there was a very great danger that we could also be affected. We had to be very vigilant, and take all precautions as far as we were able to prevent our area from being affected. I am glad to report that only one case of paratyphoid occurred in the Gower area, and it is pertinent to note that this person did not contract the disease in our area.

Food poisoning is becoming a grave public health problem in the country. One of the great sources of food poisoning is eating meat which has been cooked twelve or more hours before eating. The reason is that the exposed cooked meat is liable to contamination by the people handling it. A good lot of food poisoning would cease if people as a rule ate their food immediately after cooking. The rise in the habit of eating meals at Canteens is a cause for some outbreaks of food poisoning. A carrier working in such a Canteen can infect hundreds through one meal. It is highly desirable that the amount of inspection of places in our area where food is prepared or eaten should be markedly increased.

In conclusion, I would stress that there is not sufficient allocation of time for district M.O.H. duties, to do the job as thoroughly as I would wish.

I am, Yours sincerely,

G. E. DONOVAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND CHIEF INDUSTRIES.

The Gower Area is chiefly agricultural with the exception of the North Eastern end of the Peninsula, which is industrial in character. Due to the charms of the area there is a very large influx of visitors, especially during the summer months.

There is a tendency to look upon Gower as a small agricultural area with a population of 11,580. In my opinion this is a very wrong way to look at the situation. I would reckon that at certain times in the year, due to the visitors, the population would be quadrupled, and the health facilities should be such as to adequately deal with this population.

The population find employment on the land, catering for visitors, and a large percentage of the male population find employment in the Llŵchwr area where they are engaged in the Steel, Tin and Coal trades.

At Penclawdd, the cockle industry absorbs approximately 200 people, and it is in a thriving financial condition. The estuary is polluted, and this industry should be safeguarded by adequate public health control. At the present time there are five cockle sterilization plants operating in the Penclawdd area.

AREA AND POPULATION.

The District is divided into 17 parishes, the acreage of each parish being as follows :

Bishopston	...	2598	acres.
Llanmadoc	.....	1463	„
Cheriton	...	1427	„
Ilston	...	3109	„
Reynolston	.....	1069	„
Knelston	...	548	„
Llangennith	...	3373	„
Llanrhidian Higher	...	5212	„
Llanrhidian Lower	.....	6125	„
Nicholaston	.....	517	„
Penmaen	.....	1005	„
Oxwich	.....	1342	„
Pennard	.....	2862	„
Penrice	.....	2127	„
Porteynon	.....	1151	„
Llanddewi	.....	2009	„
Rhossilli	.....	2715	„
		38652	„

The estimated resident population of the district for 1952 is given by the Registrar-General as 11,580.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year was 3,643, and the rateable value of the district was £35,174 which represents a sum of £121 as the yield of a penny rate.

BIRTHS.

The number of live births registered for the district during 1952 was 197, being 100 males and 97 females, representing a birth rate of 17.01 per thousand of the estimated population. This rate is higher than that recorded for England and Wales, which is given as 15.30 per thousand of the estimated population. In 1951 the net total births amounted to 201, with a birth rate of 17.34 per thousand of the population ; thus this year there is a decrease of 4 births, or 0.33 lower than the rate recorded for the preceding year.

Two male illegitimate and six female children were registered, a proportion of 40.61 per thousand registered live births.

The stillbirths numbered 3, that is 2 males and 1 female, which is equivalent to a rate of 15.00 per thousand total (live and still) births.

DEATHS.

The net total deaths after allowing for inward and outward transfers was 139, being 83 males and 56 females. This represents a death rate of 12.00 per thousand of the estimated population, and is higher than the figure 11.30 per thousand of the population given for England and Wales. 151 deaths occurred during 1951, giving a death rate of 13.03 per thousand of the estimated population ; thus this year there is a decrease of 12 deaths or 1.03 lower than that recorded for the preceding year.

There were seven deaths in children under 1 year during 1952, which gives an Infantile Mortality rate of 35.53 per thousand total live births. The rate for England and Wales is 27.6.

7 legitimate children died under the age of 1 year representing a death rate of 37.03 per thousand legitimate live births.

No deaths occurred in the area due to Puerperal Sepsis or other maternal causes.

No deaths occurred from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under the age of 2 years. The rate for England and Wales is 1.1 per thousand live births.

1 death was due to Pneumonia, 16 to Bronchitis and 2 from other forms of Respiratory Diseases, giving a total of 19 deaths from all forms of Respiratory Diseases, apart from Tuberculosis, giving a death rate of 1.64 per thousand of the population.

2 deaths were registered from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory system, giving a death rate of 0.17.

No deaths were registered from Violence apart from Suicide, there being 1 suicidal death.

Cancer and all other forms of Malignant disease caused 30 deaths, giving a death rate of 2.58 per thousand of the population.

The causes of deaths during the year are as follows:—

Respiratory Tuberculosis	2
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	8
Malignant neoplasm, lung	4
Malignant neoplasm, breast	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	14
Vascular lesions of nervous system	14
Coronary disease, angina	11
Hypertension with heart disease	5
Other heart diseases	21
Other circulatory diseases	11
Influenza	0
Pneumonia	1
Bronchitis	16
Other diseases of respiratory system	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	1
Congenital malformations	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2
Motor vehicle accidents	1
All other accidents	3
Suicide	1
Total	139

The rates of deaths from Infectious Diseases in 1952 are as follows :

	Gower No. of Deaths	Gower Rate per 1,000 population	England and Wales Rate per 1,000 population
Smallpox	0	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0.00	0.01
Whooping Cough	0	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	2	0.17	0.24
Influenza	0	0.00	0.04
Pneumonia	1	0.08	0.47

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria.

No case was notified to my department during the year.

It may be stated that the incidence of Diphtheria in this area is low due to the extensive Immunisation Campaign.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Since the new Health Scheme this is under the control of the Glamorgan County Council.

General Practitioners in the Administrative County who participate in the County Council's Scheme for Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination against Smallpox may obtain serum and vaccine free of cost from the Medical Research Council's Laboratories at Cardiff and Carmarthen.

Scarlet Fever.

6 cases were notified to my department during the year, giving a rate of 0.51 per thousand of the population. The rate for England and Wales is 1.53 per thousand of the population.

The removal of cases of Scarlet Fever to Isolation Hospital in this district depends upon home conditions. If the home conditions are such that in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health it is safe to nurse the patient at home, this is done. If, however, the home conditions are unsuitable the patient is admitted to Garngoch Isolation Hospital.

Pneumonia.

1 case was notified during the year, giving a rate of 0.086 per thousand of the population. The rate recorded for England and Wales was 0.72 per thousand of the population.

Venereal Diseases.

Many cases are brought to the notice of the public health department. Those who are not attending for treatment are contacted and encouraged to attend a V.D. clinic. Contacts are also requested to attend a clinic.

Wasserman Blood Tests are being done as a routine in the Ante-Natal Clinics, and the samples of blood are sent to the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory.

The nearest clinics for this area are held at Swansea and Port Talbot, and the sessions are as follows :

Swansea Clinic (Situate at Swansea General and Eye Hospital):

Males —Monday, 2 p.m.
 Tuesday, 7 p.m.
 Friday, 6.30 p.m.

Females—Thursday, 1.30 p.m.

Port Talbot Clinic (Situate on the right hand side of the road immediately opposite the exit from G.W.R. Station) :

Males—Monday 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. and
 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Thursday 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and
 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Females—Wednesday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and
 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

GLAMORGAN (ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY)—VITAL STATISTICS, 1952.

	Estimated Population 1952	Births.		Deaths.		Infant Mortality.		Neo Natal Mortality.	
		Number of Births	Rate per 1,000 Popu- lation.	Number of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Popu- lation	Deaths under 1 year.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Deaths under 4 weeks	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
England and Wales	..	11,839	15.3	8,473	11.3	407	27.60	247	18.90
Administrative County	..	732,500	16.16		11.57		34.38		20.86
Urban Districts	..	531,200	16.49	6,362	11.98	314	35.84	191	21.80
Rural Districts	..	201,300	15.30	2,111	10.49	93	30.20	56	18.19
<i>Health Division.</i>									
Aberdare and	..	40,550	14.08	578	14.25	21	36.78	13	22.77
Mountain Ash	..	31,200	18.27	381	12.21	29	50.88	14	24.56
Gaerphilly and	..	35,700	20.08	379	10.62	30	41.84	17	23.71
Gelligaer.	..	36,040	17.45	433	12.01	20	31.80	14	22.26
Mid Glamorgan	..	13,650	16.19	151	11.06	4	18.10	4	18.10
	..	23,010	18.38	269	11.69	11	26.00	5	11.82
	..	22,550	17.52	262	11.62	26	65.82	16	40.51
	..	9,497	13.69	118	12.42	3	23.08	3	23.08
Neath and	..	34,890	15.19	315	9.03	11	20.75	6	11.32
District	..	31,660	14.72	352	11.12	14	30.04	10	21.46
Pontypridd and	..	41,250	15.44	439	10.64	12	18.84	5	7.85
Llantrisant	..	25,420	20.42	268	10.54	28	53.95	20	38.54
Port Talbot and	..	38,340	14.74	461	12.02	15	26.55	6	10.62
Glyncorrwg	..	9,388	23.01	95	1.012	5	23.15	4	18.52
South East	..	44,190	18.69	423	9.57	24	29.06	15	18.16
Glamorgan	..	40,790	17.58	486	11.91	24	33.47	13	18.13
	..	35,930	12.05	383	10.66	11	25.40	7	16.17
	..	1,035	16.43	12	11.59	—	—	—	—
	..	20,120	14.66	140	6.96	9	30.51	6	20.34
	..	18,420	14.44	239	12.98	8	30.08	6	22.56
West Glamorgan	..	11,580	17.01	139	12.00	7	35.53	5	25.38
	..	25,380	12.57	306	12.06	12	37.62	8	25.08
	..	32,110	14.57	427	13.30	15	32.05	7	14.96
Rhondda	..	109,800	15.59	1,417	12.91	68	39.72	43	25.12

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1952.

Diseases	NUMBER OF CASES											No. of cases admitted to Isolation Hospitals.	Total Deaths.
	AGE PERIODS												
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45		
Scarlet Fever ..	6	—	—	1	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	19	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	47	1	5	2	4	4	27	3	—	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

OTHERS : German Measles—23.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Eight cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and three of other forms of Tuberculosis were notified during 1952. The total number of deaths registered from all forms of Tuberculosis was two.

On receipt of a notification of surgical tuberculosis, the Sanitary Inspector automatically checks up on the milk supply from which district the notification is received.

It should be stressed that the cost of curative patching of a case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis may be £1,000. The prevention of Tuberculosis in comparison is almost negligible.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

No action was taken under this regulation during the year 1952, relating to Tubercular employees in the milk trade.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 172.

No action was taken under this section during the year 1952.

Tuberculosis Clinics.—The curative treatment of Tuberculosis is in the care of the Regional Hospital Board, and patients suffering from this disease attend the Dispensary at 9/10 Grove Place, Swansea.

Infantile Mortality Rate.—The Infant Mortality Rate is a very good index to the social circumstances of an area as the rate tends to be high in places where bad housing, overcrowding, defective sanitation, maternal ignorance and neglect, prevail. The rate for Gower is 35.53 per thousand live births.

Hospitals.—The Gorseinon General and Maternity Hospital and Garngoch Isolation Hospital are under the control of the Glantawe Regional Hospital Board.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1952

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	—
25—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
45—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	2	6	2	1	1	1	—	—

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

Ambulance Facilities :—

Infectious and Non-Infectious Cases— Since the 5th July, 1948, the Glamorgan County Council have taken over the control of the ambulance services in the administrative county.

As regards this area, an Ambulance Station has been established at Pontardawe, which controls the ambulances and cars stationed at Reynoldston, Gowerton, Gorseinon, Pontardulais, Gwauncaegurwen, Cwmllynfell, Ystalyfera, Pontardawe and Clydach.

Laboratory Facilities—Pathological and bacteriological specimens are submitted to the Cardiff and County Laboratory and the Beck Laboratory, Swansea, for examination.

WATER SUPPLY.

83% of the houses in the area are served by the Council's main, the remaining 17% draw water from deep and shallow wells—most of these wells are potentially a source of danger to public health.

During the year 41 samples of main and well water were taken the results being:—

10 samples treated water	.....	satisfactory.
5 samples untreated water and taken from source	.....	unsatisfactory.
14 samples from wells	.....	.....satisfactory.
12 samples from wells	.....	.... doubtful purity.

Action was taken by the Water Department to render the wells from which unsatisfactory results were obtained, safer.

The following are particulars of the number of houses in each parish supplied with water from the public mains (a) direct to the houses, and (b) by means of standpipes :—

(a) Direct to Houses :

Penmaen	.....	.....	.....	17
Knelston	.....	.....	.....	14
Llanddewi	.....	.....	.....	25
Port Eynon	.....	.....	.....	76
Rhossilli	.....	.....	.....	72
Nicholaston	.....	.....	.....	5
Oxwich	.....	.....	.....	48
Penrice	.....	.....	.....	67
Reynoldston	.....	.....	.....	60
Llanrhidian Lower	.....	.....	.....	79
Ilston	.....	.....	.....	56
Upper Killay Ward	.....	.....	.....	237
Penclawdd Ward	.....	.....	.....	582
Three Crosses Ward	.....	.....	.....	554
Bishopston Ward	.....	.....	.....	428
Pennard	.....	.....	.....	225

(b) By means of Standpipes :

Knelston	.....	.....	.....	2
Rhossilli	.....	.....	.....	13
Llanrhidian Lower	.....	.....	.....	6
Pennard	.....	.....	.....	284
Penclawdd	.....	.....	.....	22
Bishopston Ward	.....	.....	.....	160
Three Crosses Ward	.....	.....	.....	18

The Council are at present carrying out by contract main laying operations in North West Gower, the total length involved being approximately 20 miles. These mains will be far from the new Reservoir on Cefn Bryn which is also under construction.

The Fluoridation of Domestic Water Supplies.

As long ago as 1947 in my Annual Report, I stated that fluoridation held promise in the prevention of dental caries.

A notable report on fluoridation by the Government Mission which went to the United States of America and Canada in February, 1952, to study the fluoridation projects in North America has now been published. The authors of this report leave their readers in no doubt as to their conviction that the presence of natural fluorides in domestic water supplies reduce very markedly the incidence of dental caries not only in young persons, but also in adults up to middle age, and that artificially fluoridated waters act in precisely the same way as those containing natural fluorides.

I would be inclined to the view that it will be some time before fluoridation will be generally used, but it is desirable that we in this area should be on the alert. I am only mentioning this matter from a public health point of view, but there are engineering and financial problems which have to be considered.

SEWERAGE.

Since my last report a further 30 houses have been connected to the main sewer at Upper Killay.

All new housing sites in the area are provided with water borne sewerage schemes and small sewage disposal plants. The effluent from these passes into streams and soakaways.

Sewerage and sewage disposal schemes have been prepared for the villages of Penclawdd, Dunvant, Crofty and Llanmorlais, Llanrhidian, Three Crosses and part of Bishopston. In most cases the Ministry of Housing and Local Government has indicated a grant and requires an assurance that the Council will exercise their powers to compel householders to connect to the new sewers. The total capital cost involved is approximately £130,000.

MILK.

Milk is a highly nutritious food. It can also be a most dangerous food, as it can act as an ideal culture medium for certain pathogens, except certain precautions are taken. It is my opinion that it is highly desirable that all milk should be pasteurised.

Milk should come from clean, healthy herds. The milking should be done under proper hygienic conditions, and should not be contaminated at any stage. Pasteurisation should not be used to cover up dirty milk.

Bacteriological samples of milk were taken on 16 occasions and found to be:—

Satisfactory	.....	15
Unsatisfactory	.....	1

Tubercle Bacilli samples were taken on 12 occasions and each sample shewed T.B. to be absent.

ICE-CREAM.

Ice-cream is a nutritious food. It is essential that it should be manufactured, stored and sold under hygienic conditions.

Numerous outbreaks of intestinal infections have occurred throughout the country due to Ice-Cream, and consequently legislation was introduced requiring the registration of premises where Ice-Cream is sold, or manufactured for the purpose of sale, or stored for intended sale.

The Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.), Regulations, 1947, state that where in the manufacture of ice-cream, a "complete cold mix" is used, which is reconstituted with water, colouring or flavouring materials, etc., the product shall be converted to ice-cream within one hour of reconstitution. In any other case, after the ingredients have been mixed, the mixture shall not be kept for more than one hour above 45°F before being raised to and kept at a temperature of not less than 150°F for 30 minutes, or 160°F for 10 minutes. It shall then within 1½ hours be reduced to not more than 45°F, and there kept until freezing is begun. Ice-Cream may not be sold unless kept at a temperature not exceeding 28°F. It must be protected from contamination at all times.

The Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.), Regulations, 1947, have been amended by the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.), Amendment Regulations, 1953, so as to include the High Temperature Short Time (H.T.S.T.) method of heat treatment. This H.T.S.T. method provides for the heat treatment of ice-cream mixes at a temperature of not less than 175°F for at least 15 seconds. The apparatus used is required to be thermostatically controlled and, as with the high temperature short time plants used for the pasteurisation of milk, fitted with a flow diversion valve. The installation of a positive displacement pump is also required, but this requirement would be met where the flow-rate through the plant is regulated by a piston homogeniser. The other relevant provisions of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations of 1947-1951, also apply to ice-cream manufactured by the new process.

There is a great danger if Ice-Cream is made from materials which contain pathogenic organisms. What is even more dangerous is the actual introduction of organisms by insanitary methods of handling.

The Minister of Food has now restored the standard for ice-cream which was in force before 7th July, 1952. The minimum fat content is increased from 4% to 5%, and the minimum content of non-fat milk solids from 5% to 7½%. The minimum sugar content remains at 10%. This has been rendered possible by the improvement in supplies of milk powder.

Samples are taken by the Sanitary Inspector and submitted to the Beck Laboratory for bacteriological examination. Unsatisfactory results are followed up each in case.

HOUSING.

At the 31st December, 1952, 216 post-war houses had been erected and 31 were under construction. 25 houses had been let to Agricultural Workers, and 22 to Miners, the remainder being let to general workers.

The Council still retains the emergency housing estates at Graigy-Coed, Penclawdd; Parc Estate, Upper Killay; Devil's Elbow, Upper Killay and Blackhills, Upper Killay. These camps are occupied by 68 licensees. These people live under insanitary

conditions, and owing to rapid deterioration efforts by the Council to effect repairs are of no avail. It will be appreciated that these sites have been used by the Council since the end of the war, and being of a temporary construction the Council should seriously consider vacating these estates as soon as possible. Such accommodation is a potential breeding ground for disease.

The number of applications still awaiting consideration for Council Houses is approximately 280.

SHELL FISH.

The sooner the appropriate Order and Bye-laws are enforced in the Gower area, the safer it will be for public health.

Food and Drugs.

Milk	50	Jelly Creams	1
Fish Paste	1	Vinegar	1
Sponge Mixture	5	Synthetic Cream	1
Cornflour	1	Trifle Pack	1
Bicarbonate of Soda	2	Cheese Spread	1
Salad Cream	3	Table Jellies	3
Golden Raising Powder	3	Gelatine	1
Sauce	2	Blancmange	3
Canned Peas	1	Butter	2
Cake Flour	3	Cooking Fat	1
Sweepfat	1	Sandwich Spread	1
Bun Flour	1	Xmas Plum Puddings	1
Ice-cream	6	Glauber Salts	1
Honey	1	Tomato Sauce	1
Pudding Mixture	1	Coffee & Chicory	1
Epsom Salts	1	Vegetable Salad	1
Lemon Curd	1	Mixed Spice	2
Chutney	1	Dessert Powder	2
Peppers	2	Icing Sugar	1
Figs	1	Ground Nutmeg	1
Arrowroot	1		

One sample of ice-cream was found, on analysis, to be deficient in fat to the extent of not less than 13% and the offender was prosecuted resulting in a fine of £1 plus Analyst's fee of 15/-.

Meat, and Other Foods.

During the War, and also since cessation of hostilities, the slaughtering of cattle, sheep and pigs (except the slaughtering of cottager's pig), is centralised at the Swansea Abattoir, and therefore the Department is not in a position to furnish information relating to inspection and condemnation of cattle, etc., as required in Paragraph 8 of Circular 42/51 (Wales).

BREAD.

Agene is used by British millers in flour. Experimental work has proved that this substance can cause a nervous disease in dogs, which is characterised by a form of hysteria. Some countries do not permit the use of this substance in bread and I understand that the United States of America is one of them. Some of the medical profession are disturbed by the use of this substance in the food which has been labelled the staff of life. It has been pointed out that men are not dogs, and that whilst agene produces a form of hysteria in dogs, there is no proof that it has such an effect on human beings. It has been counter suggested that whilst it may not produce the same symptoms as in canines, it may affect the health of susceptible people, especially when consumed over a period of years. This subject of agene leaves one vaguely disturbed, but in the present state of our knowledge it is desirable that one should have an open mind.

Condemnation of Food.

The following foods were condemned by the Sanitary Inspector during the year :

7 lbs. Mutton.
3 doz. pkts. Bun Flour.
7 pkts. Sweepfat.
3 pkts. Cake Flour.
60 lbs. Ham.

Rodent Control.

Disinfestation work was carried out in 241 private dwellings during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1952, and in addition 43 council houses and huts were also treated. Requests were made for the services of the rat catcher from a number of bakeries and garages.

Regular visits are made, and the necessary work undertaken at the following :

1. Wernbwill, Murton and Broadpool dumps.
2. Upper Killay Sewer.
3. Rivers, streams and hedges etc.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

As required by Section 128 (3) of the Factories Act, 1937, I give below, particulars with respect to matters under Part 1 and Part 8 of the Act as administered by the Council :

(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities		
number on Register	.....	25
Inspections—ditto	.....	55
Number of Notices served	.....	Nil
Prosecutions	.....	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority		
Inspections—ditto	.....	10
Number of Notices served	.....	20
Prosecutions	.....	Nil
(3) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority		
Inspections	.....	1
Number of Notices served	.....	2
		Nil

Cases in which defects were found :

Want of cleanliness	.....	1
Sanitary Conveniences :		
(a) insufficient	.....	3
(b) unsuitable or defective		1
(c) not separate for sexes	.....	0
Total		5
Outwork (section 110 and 111)		1

Appendix.

1.—General Statistics.

Area of District—38,652 acres.

Number of inhabited houses at the end of the year—3,643.

Rateable Value of District—£35,174.

Sum represented by 1d. rate—£121.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1952—
11,380.

2.—Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

Live Births :

	Total	M.	F.	
Legitimate	189	98	91	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—17.01.
Illegitimate	8	2	6	

Still Births :—

Legitimate	3	2	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)—15.00.
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Deaths	139	83	56	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—12.00.
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Rate per 1,000
total
(live & still)
Births

Deaths.

Death from Puerperal Sepsis	—	}	—
Deaths from other Puerperal Causes	—		
Total	—		

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age :

All Infants per 1,000 live births 35.53

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 37.07

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 30 Deaths

Deaths from Measles (all ages) —

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) —

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) —

NOTES

189

THE JOURNAL OF THE
ROYAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

189

189

189

189

189

189

189

